

The Holyford Mission Community

Online Service for Sunday 4th October 2020

Morning Prayer from Common Worship Daily Prayer

O Lord, open our lips

All and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

- 1 Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
- 2 Bless the Lord you heavens:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
- 3 Bless the Lord you angels of the Lord:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
- 4 Bless the Lord all people on earth:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
- 5 O people of God bless the Lord:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
- 6 Bless the Lord you priests of the Lord:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
- 7 Bless the Lord you servants of the Lord:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.
- 8 Bless the Lord all you of upright spirit:
bless the Lord you that are holy and humble in heart.

The Song of the Three 35-37, 60-65

All Bless the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit:
sing his praise and exalt him for ever.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.

All Amen.

Psalm 80 9–17

Refrain: *Turn us again, O God; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*

- 9 You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
- 10 You made room around it,
and when it had taken root, it filled the land.
- 11 The hills were covered with its shadow
and the cedars of God by its boughs.
- 12 It stretched out its branches to the Sea
and its tendrils to the River.
- 13 Why then have you broken down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?
- 14 The wild boar out of the wood tears it off,
and all the insects of the field devour it.
- 15 Turn again, O God of hosts,
look down from heaven and behold;
- 16 Cherish this vine which your right hand has planted,
and the branch that you made so strong for yourself.
- 17 Let those who burnt it with fire, who cut it down,
perish at the rebuke of your countenance.

All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

Refrain: *Turn us again, O God; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*

Reading *Matthew 21.33-end*

Jesus said: ‘Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, “They will respect my son.” But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.” So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read

in the scriptures: “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes”? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.’ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Responsory

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead.

All **And Christ shall give you light.**

You have died and your life is hid with Christ in God.

All **Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead.**

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on the earth.

All **And Christ shall give you light.**

When Christ our life appears you will appear with him in glory.

All **Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,
and Christ shall give you light.**

from Colossians 3

The Benedictus

All **You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of your servant David.**

- 1 **Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.**
- 2 **He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.**
- 3 **Through his holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,**
- 4 **To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.**
- 5 **This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**
- 6 **Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.**
- 7 **And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,**

- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

All You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of your servant David.

Reflection Fr Steven

Our Gospel reading comes from towards the end of Matthew's Gospel, where Jesus makes his entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. We are at Palm Sunday effectively, leading up to Jesus' arrest and crucifixion.

The people of Israel, the priests and the elders of the people are expecting a triumphant warrior as their leader, who will enter Jerusalem and lead the people of Israel to victory over their oppressors. But they get Jesus. Not on a white steed, but riding a donkey. He comes to teach and heal.

Today we hear a parable in which he endeavours to explain to them who he is and the way things will be. He sets the story in a vineyard. This is very significant because not only were there a lot of vineyards around, but the Hebrew scriptures contain lots of references comparing the people of Israel to a vine, a vine that God planted. On our pew sheets today you can see Isaiah speaking of a vineyard, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, are other prophets who spoke of the vine as a metaphor for Israel. In our Psalm today, the Psalmist says to God, 'You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.' (Ps. 80. 9). This is a reference to God bringing Israel out of Egypt to the promised land.

So when Jesus starts talking about vines and vineyards, those around him would prick up their ears. He was saying something profound about them. The vineyard owner's servants had come on his behalf, yet were turned away and killed. Even the vineyard owner's son.

God sent his prophets to Israel, to the vineyard, but they were rejected. Now God was sending his son, Jesus, and he was to be rejected, taken out of the vineyard, out of the walls of Jerusalem, and would be killed too. In this parable, Jesus foretells his own death.

Along the south west side of the Vicarage, we have a vine. Not planted by me, but by one of my predecessors. It has grown very well this year and its branches have gone everywhere, and we have had to trim it as it has tumbled over the wall, or grown over the

path. There are lots of bunches of grapes. But most are spoiled, because we haven't pruned the vine, or thinned the grapes, cut out small grapes here and there, so that the bunches would have a chance to develop larger fruit. Most bunches have moldy grapes, or some which haven't had enough water to fill out. Some of these are small and edible, but on the whole, we have been very bad vine growers here.

What drove the tenants of the vineyard to kill the owner's servants, and even his son? Were they simply greedy, doing so well that they didn't wish to share the profits or pay the rent? Had they forgotten who owned the vineyard? Or had they been negligent and distracted like me, and were perhaps too afraid to own up for fear of being cast out of the vineyard?

Jesus says 'the kingdom of God will be given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom.'

Attention to the vine. Realising who the owner is and what we must rely on for growth. Taking the fruit, pruning out early on what will enable better, fuller growth across the whole bunch. Discerning what needs to be kept, what needs to be cut away to enable our growth and the growth of the kingdom.

This can all be regarded as a useful metaphor for the spiritual life, a call to cultivate the fruits of the kingdom, all described in our kingdom prayer, the Our Father.

And so let us pray that kingdom prayer now.

The Lord's Prayer

All **Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

The Collect of the day is said

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Te Deum Laudamus

**We praise you, O God,
we acclaim you as the Lord;
all creation worships you,
the Father everlasting.
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you:
Father, of majesty unbounded,
your true and only Son, worthy of all praise,
the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.
You, Christ, are the King of glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.
When you took our flesh to set us free
you humbly chose the Virgin's womb.
You overcame the sting of death
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come and be our judge.
Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints
to glory everlasting.
Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance.
Govern and uphold them now and always.
Day by day we bless you.
We praise your name for ever.
Keep us today, Lord, from all sin.
Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
Lord, show us your love and mercy,
for we have put our trust in you.
In you, Lord, is our hope:
let us never be put to shame.

The Conclusion

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,
and keep us in eternal life.

All Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.